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Entrance:

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How to get there: (Windsor is just 22 miles west of London.)

By Road: A few minutes off the M4 Motorway (Junction 6) on the Windsor-Maidenhead road (A308). Ample car parking facilities available at £1.50 per vehicle. Coaches free.

By Rail: Frequent services to Windsor from Waterloo, Reading and Paddington with connections to all parts of the country. A complimentary coach service direct to the Exhibition grounds will operate each morning and afternoon from Windsor & Eton Central and Riverside stations.

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This issue

AUGUST 1985

Front cover: *The Royal & Ancient Clubhouse, St Andrews. From October 6—9, the historic home of golf hosts the 5th International Golf Tournament and Conference for Greenkeepers and Superintendents. Sponsored by Ransomes, an application form is included in this issue and details can be found on page 6.*

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Greenkeeper

Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd
Managing Director: Michael Coffey

Editor: Robin Stewart

Contributors: Jim Arthur, John Campbell, David Jones, Jack McMillan, Eddie Park, Donald Steel, Peter Wisbey and Walter Woods

All advertising matter, editorial copy and correspondence should be sent to: *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. ☎ 0255 507526

Subscription rates:

UK—£14 Continent and USA—£25 Eire—IR £19

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B. Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex.
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Opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the publisher or the editor.

What a week!

THE 1985 Open Championship saw the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association represented for the first time at this prestigious annual event. Our hospitality marquee was hosted by members of the board of management and available to EIGGA members and non-members alike.

On behalf of the EIGGA executive, I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to the R & A, which was most generous in its contribution of a superbly positioned site.

Thanks are also due to *Greenkeeper*, the main sponsor of the marquee, and its publisher Michael Coffey, who is also a trustee of EIGGA.

Further sponsorship was given by national company members Ransomes, SISIS, Lely Import and T. Parker & Sons. We gratefully acknowledge the support these companies gave the association.

EIGGA sends its congratulations to Royal St George's and all those involved in staging the Open. Particular mention must be made of head greenkeeper Derek Scarborough and all his green staff for the course's fine condition.

Finally, my thanks go to my colleagues on the EIGGA board of management who manned the marquee — particularly national chairman Bill Lawson and Michael Coffey, who both worked extremely hard throughout the week.

Danielle Jones, EIGGA General Administrator.

THE initial reaction upon arriving at Sandwich was sheer pride at the sight of EIGGA and *Greenkeeper* flags flying high over the big marquee set in a prime position.

The first people I met were Michael Coffey and his wife Anthea before going on to meet Peter Wisbey at his home club North Foreland.

As the week went by, we had many visitors from all parts of the world, plus old friends such as Mr and Mrs Jack McMillan, Mr and Mrs Joe McKean, Jim Arthur, Dr Peter Hayes and Nick Park. The Press corps was well represented by editors Robin Stewart (*Greenkeeper*) Malcolm Campbell (*Golf Monthly*) and John Lelean (*Golf Greenkeeping And Course Maintenance*), as well as *Greenkeeper's* regular contributor John Campbell. It was also good to see Peter Wilson and Peter Dutton of the English Golf Union.

When Sunday finally arrived, everyone felt that all we set out to do had been achieved and followed the high standard set by SIGGA at last year's Open.

I would like to add my thanks to all the EIGGA board of management who took days out of their annual holidays to do a stint in the marquee and my special thanks go to president David Low for spending the full week with us and SIGGA member Frazer McNeill, who was also a loyal supporter throughout the week.

Bill Lawson, EIGGA Chairman.



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N.B. Registration Forms must be returned to the above address no later than 31st AUGUST, 1985.

First 300 registrations are guaranteed attendance, a ballot will operate thereafter.

ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND: Greenkeepers, Superintendents, Golf Club Officials on receipt of the relevant remittance by the pre-set date above.



Get Set For St Andrews!

The organising committee of Walter Woods, John Wilson, James Neilson, Chris Kennedy, Joe McKean, Scott Forrest and James Kidd has arranged a full programme for the 5th International Golf Tournament and Conference for Greenkeepers and Superintendents at St Andrews from October 6-9.

The events start on Sunday with registration at the Russacks Marine Hotel and an evening reception. Monday's practice for the international teams — SIGGA, EIGGA, the BGGGA, GCSAA, CGSA, the International Greenkeepers' Association will be represented — an afternoon Stableford and an evening Haggis and Neeps Supper Dance.

Tuesday is conference day, with papers from David Jones, Russell Brown, Gordon Childs, Nick Park, Rolf Lowgren, the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Association and the US Green Section, followed by a modern dance night. And the ladies haven't been forgotten — a full day's tour to Glamis Castle sets off at 9.30am.

Wednesday is the big one as far as golf is concerned! The 36-hole Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Team Golf Tournament will culminate with a flags lowering ceremony to a pipe band and team presentations. Ransomes invitation-only banquet includes the prize-giving ceremony.

An application form is included in this issue and full details can be obtained from Joe McKean on 041-427 4242.



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WE LIKE to think our picture says something about this young lady's intelligence, rather than the magazine's content! Four-month-old Lorna Paterson looks set to follow in dad's footsteps. Scott Paterson is a member of SIGGA's West section.

"I look forward to reading Greenkeeper every month,

but lately I've been forced to wait a couple of days before Lorna releases my copy." Scott said. "She snatches the magazine from my hands the moment I pick it up and she can't wait for the next edition. Neither can I — if I can get hold of it!"

Obituary — Bob Scott

After a short illness, Bob Scott died recently in an Aberdeen hospital.

Bob was the quietest of men, who began his working career as an apprentice blacksmith in the family business, but later, having been born and brought up in the mining district of Lanarkshire, he worked down the pit.

During this period, he played golf to relax and helped out on a nine-hole golf course at Rigside. He was a scratch player at the age of eighteen, and held that standard for some 30 years.

His love of the game inspired Bob to become a greenkeeper. He subsequently became the complete pro, with a career spanning 25 years at Rigside, Arbroath, Drumpellor, Hilton Park and, and for his last 15 years, Murcar Golf Club in Aberdeen.

To his wife Jean, daughter and son Tom, who is carrying on the family tradition in the bowling green contractual field, we tender our deepest sympathy, but express our appreciation for the time Bob always found for the younger members of the profession.

James Kidd, Estates Manager, Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses.



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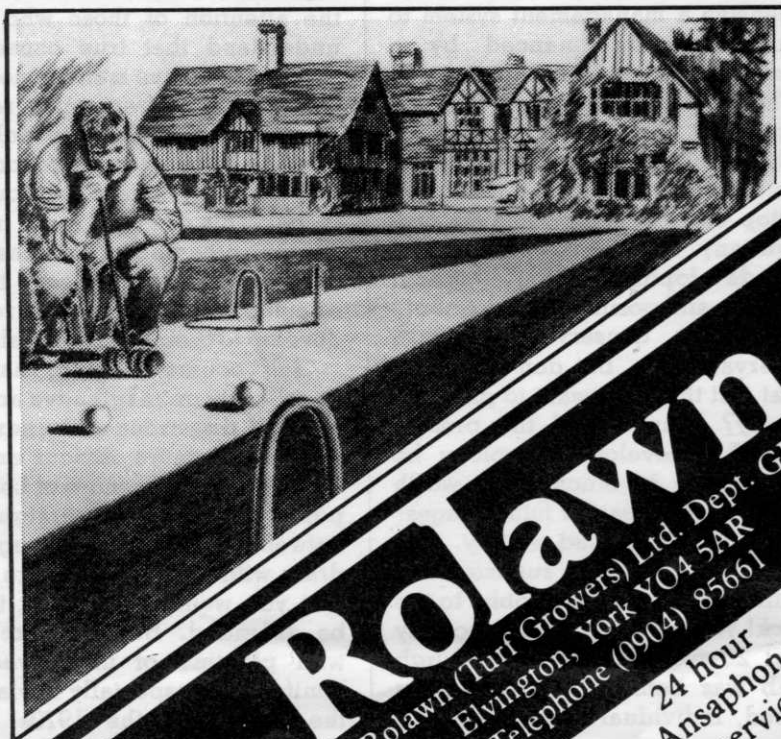
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CONSERVATION OR PRESERVATION?

VIRTUALLY all the most admired natural scenery in all its wide variety in Britain is the result of man's activities, directly or indirectly." Another "dogmatic Arthurian statement?" No, the view of one of the leading authorities in this country on conservation and national parks!

It seems a bold statement. What about the thousands of acres of northern heather moors? Not much would survive without regular muir burning or swaling (depending on which side of the border you come from), either for grouse moors or hill sheep farming.

Certainly, the primrose woods of my youth seem almost a thing of the past. This, despite the opinions of well-meaning, but misguided, conservation activists, is not due to picking the flowers (though perhaps mass digging up of roots is another matter), rather the end of coppicing, which left open, cleared woodland, coppiced stumps and spaced standards that rapidly colonised with primroses and bluebells in response to light and air — only for them to be suppressed when the coppices regrew on a seven to 14-year cycle.

Coppicing ceased when the market for poles, hurdles and other rural products ended. It is far too expensive a management system to maintain unless financed by a demand for the end product.

The problem with conservation is that it has become highly emotive and its chief protagonists seem to be urban country lovers who want to stop the clock! You cannot preserve any status quo in a living and developing ecology without intensive and positive management.

So, many conservationists are preservationists, but don't know it! What is it that they want to preserve anyway? Why should the present state of a developing ecology be regarded as so much more worth preserving than past or future stages?

Golfers are as bad as any. The sound of a chain-saw summons the battling conservationist lobby to the attack! We even had a case recently when 20-year old rubbishy, birch scrub was being cleared, leaving spaced, individual mature oaks, in the process of course extension and alterations, of the local con-

servationists seeking a tree protection order for the stumps! And this despite the fact that full planning permission and felling certificates had been obtained, with the full approval of the official conservation body which, like me, regard birches as a self-seeding weed!

Heathland courses are almost unrecognisable by comparison...

If you look at the photographs of many of our famous heathland courses taken at the turn of the century, they are almost unrecognisable by comparison with their present state. Most of our heathland 50 or more years ago was kept free from colonisation by trees due to a massive rabbit population — even if it was not grazed — but rabbits have been decimated by myxomatosis and intensively controlled.

Birch especially has alarming invasive powers and will soon convert open heather into uninteresting birch scrub, with self-competing and smothering 'weeds' struggling to survive, none being able to come to full maturity. Unless the problem of invasion is tackled at an early stage, it becomes prohibitively expensive and, of course, attracts the attention of those who cannot understand that true conservation demands positive management.

Hence, my frequently repeated requests to members to pull out a seedling birch on every round and to 'fell a tree in '83 and fell four more in '84.' This does not mean indiscriminate clearance. It does mean selective thinning to leave the best selected maturing trees room to develop to their full potential.

Golf course planting has been appallingly unimaginative and often has had disastrous and unexpected results. The more obvious examples — for example, avenues of Lombardy poplars planted in straight lines between fairways, blocking every drain with their roots — are so bad that you would not expect them to be defended. But they are! This, with planting of unrelieved dark conifers and especially *Leylandii* — the 'privet' of the 1970s — are examples of planting anything if only to get a quick effect.

Capability Brown could never expect to see much of his planting come to maturity, yet his belief in natural landscaping altered the whole concept of landscape architecture in England for centuries.

In passing, I do find it slightly alarming to see numerous trees that I planted 30 years or more ago! But this emphasises the speed at which trees grow and if you plant forest trees, you must try to envisage how big they will be in, say, 50 years time and give them room.

The best parkland courses are not noted for masses of individually spaced, majestic, mature specimens, which replace bunkers as natural hazards — with the course designed around the mature trees and not the other way round!

Perhaps as bad in my book is the unaesthetic planting of trees totally out of place — flowering cherries, etc, on open heathland courses. I once mentioned that a flowering cherry, planted by the 18th fairway in memory of a departed captain, was as much in place as his tombstone would have been. The next year, I saw, with some incredulity, a concrete plinth with bronze 'in memoriam' inscription near one green, behind which a liquidamber had been planted!

It has always been my main theme, both as a landscaper and conservationist (and in both schools, incidentally, I am professionally qualified) to work with nature, to produce a natural environment and to control that environment by positive management. Just as in large industrial landscaping schemes, my aim was to plant too closely to start with, thus having surplus maturing stock from subsequent thinning out operations to form the basis for the next stage of development. Planted or natural woodland is always in need of thinning out.

Quite apart from the need to aid turf management by increasing light and air, we must give a few individuals the chance to mature fully, rather than refuse to cull surplus trees and so end up with a mass of choked, distorted and self-smothered specimens.

How often do we see plantings — especially of conifers — which,